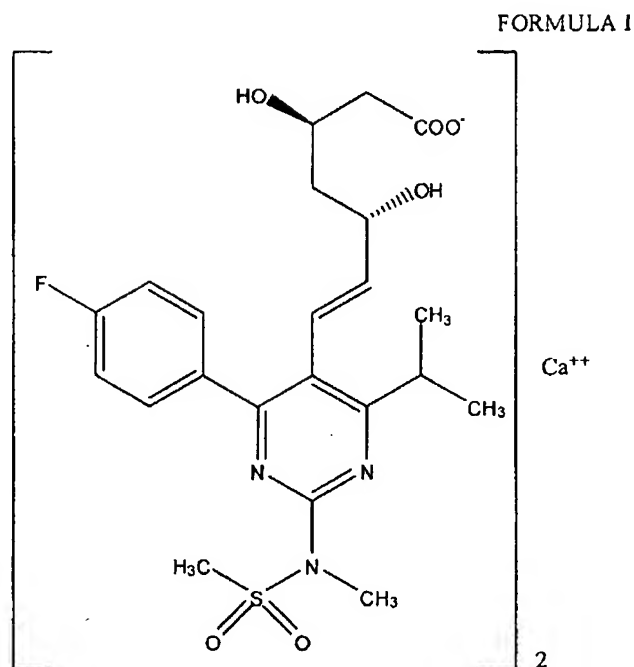


Amendments to claims:

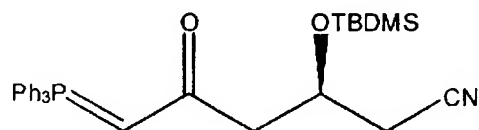
1. (Currently amended) A process for producing rosuvastatin of structural formula I,



comprising :

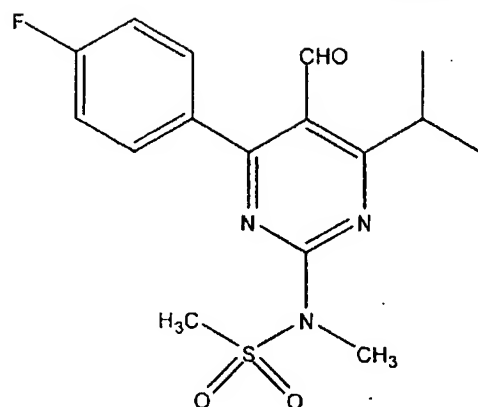
- a. condensing 1-cyano (2S)-2-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-5-oxo-6-triphenylphosphanylidene hexanenitrile of structural formula II

FORMULA II



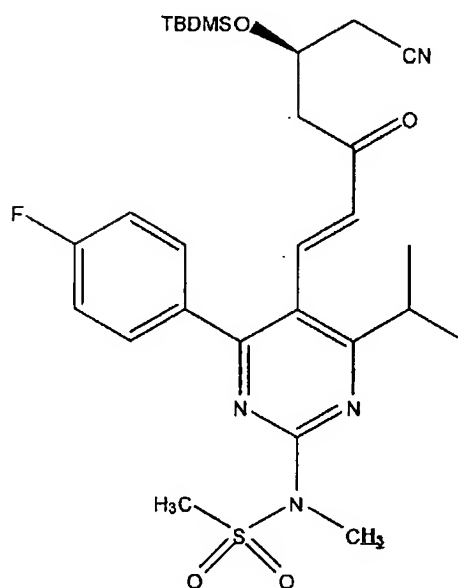
with 4-(4-Fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-(N-methyl-N-methanesulfonylamino)-5-pyrimidinecarbaldehyde of structural formula III

FORMULA III



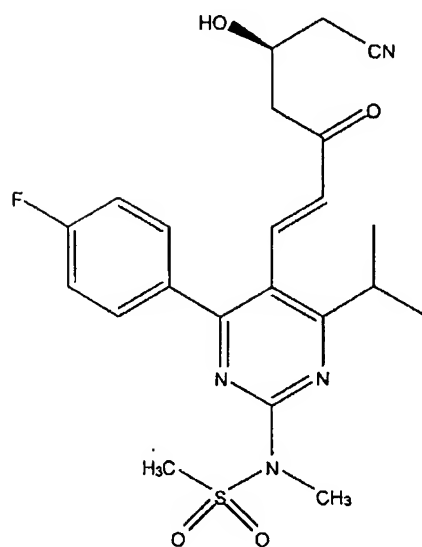
to give a condensed product of structural formula IV

FORMULA IV



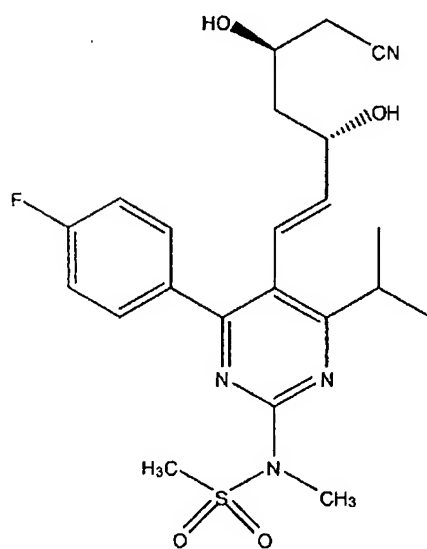
- b. deprotecting of the tert-butyldimethylsilyl group of the condensed product to afford a cyanoketo alcohol of structural formula V,

FORMULA V



- c. reducing the cyanoketo alcohol to cyanodiol of structural formula VI,

FORMULA VI



- d. ~~hydrolyzing the cyanodiol of structural formula VI to produce the compound of structural formula I in free acid form, or in the form of an ester or lactone thereof, or in salt form.~~
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein step (a) is carried out in an organic solvent.
 3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of toluene, benzene, cyclohexanes, heptanes ~~or~~ and mixture(s) thereof.
 4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein the organic solvent is toluene.
 5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein step (b) is performed in an organic solvent.
 6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of sulfolane, dioxane, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethyl acetamide, N-methyl pyrrolidone, acetonitrile, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, methanol, ethanol, propanol, and mixtures thereof.
 7. (Original) The process of the claim 6 wherein the organic solvent is methanol.
 8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the deprotection at step (b) is performed by treating with an acids or tetrabutylammonium fluoride.
 9. (Cancelled).
 10. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~9~~ 8 wherein the acids ~~are~~ is selected from the group consisting of methanesulfonic acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, formic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, and acetic acid.
 11. (Original) The process of claim 10 wherein the acid is methanesulfonic acid.
 12. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the reduction at step c is carried out in the presence of diethylmethoxyborane and sodium borohydride.

13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the reduction is performed in an organic solvent mixture comprising an alcohol and a non-alcoholic solvents.
14. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol and butanol.
15. (Original) The process of claim 14 wherein the alcohol is methanol.
16. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the non-alcoholic organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran and dimethylformamide.
17. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the non-alcoholic organic solvent is tetrahydrofuran.
18. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis at step (d) is performed after the reaction at step c is completed.
19. -33. (Cancelled)